



OFFERING TALK

Imagine: Feeding The Multitudes

Scripture Passage: Matthew 14:13-21 (NRSV)

*And all ate and were filled;
and they took up what was
left over of the broken pieces,
twelve baskets full.*

Matthew 14:20

This morning's Gospel lesson is a powerful message about **God's provision for us**. Isn't it amazing what happens when we stop limiting what we believe is possible and trust in God? We see the abundance that is possible when we connect with others and are empowered by our faith.

As United Methodists, through our connectional giving, we experience that unlimited possibility. A portion of our gifts joins with more than 12 million United Methodist's to invest in strong leadership, quality education,

and building new United Methodist communities around the world. Like multiplying loaves and fishes, together we do more to fill communities with overflowing signs of God's love for us through Jesus.

Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat."

Matthew 14:16

In this account, Jesus doesn't feed the people. **He trusts the disciples to find a way.** He encourages them to look beyond what they don't have and to see potential in two loaves and five fish. And **together, the disciples do more.** They accomplish what at first seemed impossible.





What does that look like today through our own discipleship? **We are each empowered to feed the multitudes.** When we can glimpse the God sized vision for this church, we can be confident that we have the resources to accomplish it. And when each of our gifts joins with others, we experience unlimited possibility.

Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. Matthew 14:19

Jesus trusts and empowers his disciples to feed the people. He takes what they had gathered and blesses it. And I wonder . . . perhaps as others saw the loaves and fish being shared, they took what little they had and began to share it with those around them.

There is a mission field beyond these walls of people who aren't part of a faith community. **We can be the hands and feet of Jesus offering hope, healing, and wholeness.** Through our gifts, we can offer them Christ.

As you consider and give thanks for what God has blessed you with, **imagine the possibilities** for how your gifts can impact this church, the community, and God's world.

